

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGEMENT OF VOICE-OVER IP  
COMMUNICATIONS**

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**ABSTRACT**

A method and apparatus for analyzing current voice call quality in an IP network before allowing a new voice call to enter therein. Circuitry in each gateway between a PSTN and the IP network obtains information from the IP network regarding the quality of voice call traffic being transmitted from one gateway to another gateway. A parameter is calculated by the circuitry based on this information. This parameter is compared to predetermined thresholds to guarantee acceptable quality for a new voice call that is attempting to enter the IP network. The circuitry includes three circuits. A first circuit passes voice call data to the IP network. A second circuit polls the IP network about traffic information transmitted therein. A third circuit processes the polled information to determine whether the voice call data is to be accepted by the IP network.